



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6848
January 20, 2026
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6848: Approve Stormwater Capacity Grant Budget	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Authorize the City Manager to accept the Department of Ecology 2025-2027 Biennial Stormwater Capacity Grant and appropriate \$120,000 to the stormwater maintenance operations budget.	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Brian Hartvigson, ROW/Stormwater Manager Deeqa Roble, Stormwater Quality Technician
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. 2025-2027 Stormwater Capacity Agreement between WA State DOE and City of Mercer Island
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ 120,000
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ 0
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ 120,000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to request authorization to accept the Department of Ecology Stormwater Capacity Grant (Exhibit 1) and appropriate the awarded funds to the stormwater operations budget.

- The Department of Ecology administers a non-competitive, biennial grant program to provide municipalities with funding to implement National Pollution Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.
- The City has been awarded \$120,000, which must be expended between July 2025 and March 2027.
- Grant funds will be used to supplement costs associated with stormwater infrastructure maintenance, illicit discharge response, and other requirements of the NPDES permit.

BACKGROUND

The City's stormwater system consists of over 100 miles of conveyance pipe, approximately 5,500 catch basins, 11 detention ponds and vaults, 24 overflow structures, and 68 outfalls into Lake Washington, all of which must be inspected and maintained regularly to ensure that stormwater is able to drain public roadways and uplands, and flow unobstructed to the lake.

Mercer Island's stormwater system is regulated by the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Stormwater General Permit. NPDES is a regulatory framework under the Clean Water Act to restrict pollutants from entering waterways from point sources such as stormwater pipes or open ditches.

In order to stay compliant with NPDES permit requirements, the City must complete a discrete body of work each year, which includes inspecting 95% of all city catch basins every biennium, monitoring for and responding to all illicit discharge events, providing public education campaigns about issues affecting stormwater quality, performing regular inspections of businesses for potential sources of pollutants entering the stormwater system (source control), and monitoring stormwater quality at outfall pipes entering Lake Washington.

Every two years, the Department of Ecology provides financial assistance to cities and counties covered under the NPDES Municipal Stormwater General Permit. This assistance is provided through the Stormwater Capacity Grant (Exhibit 1), a non-competitive award that supports projects that benefit stormwater management programs and implementation of their municipal stormwater permit programs.

The City has been a recipient of the Stormwater Capacity Grant since 2015, which is used to supplement the costs associated with implementing NPDES permit requirements. Funding from the previous cycle of this grant, which ran from 2023 to 2025, was used for stormwater catch basin cleaning, stormwater conveyance CCTV inspection services, and the purchase of illicit discharge spill response materials.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The 2025-2027 Biennial Stormwater Capacity Grant was released by the Department of Ecology in July 2025. The associated funding, which includes \$115,000 for permit implementation activities and \$5,000 for project administration, must be used by March 31, 2027. The City is not required to provide matching funds. For context, the City's 2026 annual operating budget for stormwater maintenance services is \$2.6 million.

In order to use the allocated funds, the City must execute the grant agreement and appropriate the funds to the 2026 stormwater operations budget. The Department of Ecology will reimburse expenditures associated with the grant once the work is complete.

NEXT STEPS

If accepted, the awarded grant funds would be used to offset a portion of the costs to carry out the NPDES permit-required tasks. In 2026, this would include utilizing vactor services to empty and clean stormwater catch basins and completing annual catch basin inspections.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize the City Manager to accept the Department of Ecology 2025-2027 Biennial Stormwater Capacity Grant and appropriate \$120,000 to the stormwater maintenance operation budget.